

LESSON

Sabbath

Do Do this week's activity on page 38.

Family Ties

Sunday

Read Read "Family Ties."

Read Read the power text. What does this text say about you?

Pray Ask God to give you the certainty that you are His child.

"You were adopted," Linda whispered to her younger sister, Kathy, even though she remembered clearly the day her sister was born.

"What?" Kathy gasped.

"Yeah. Mom and Dad adopted you just like they adopted Ronnie."

"No way!"

FIVE

POWER POINT

God promises believers that our place in His family is sure.

POWER TEXT

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent ... but born of God"

(John 1:12, 13, NIV).

"You don't have large eyes or curly hair like the rest of us. See, you look like Ronnie," Linda lied. Weeks later, after Kathy angrily demanded to know whether or not her parents had lied to her, the whole mean mess was straightened out.

If you have ever doubted that you belong in your family, you may be surprised to learn that Jesus knows how that feels. In this lesson Jesus and the apostle John help set the story straight about family—forever. (See John 11; The Desire of Ages, pp. 524, 525.)

Jewish children of Jesus' time learned to obey all the rigid rules taught by the Pharisees. But Jesus was never as concerned about those rules as He was about serving God. As a result, Jesus' brothers were often ashamed of their younger brother.

Monday

Read Read John 11:1-3, 36; Matthew 12:46-50; and John 1:12.

Think Underline John 11:36 and think: This is how Jesus feels about me!

Learn Begin learning the power text.

Pray Ask God to let you feel His love.



Tuesday

Read Read John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:22; and Ephesians 2:19.

Review Practice saying your power text.

Ask Ask to see your birth certificate.

Create Make a birth certificate for your entrance into the family of God.

Pray Write in your Bible study journal a prayer based on the texts you read today.



"What will the neighbors think?" His brother James might have asked when Jesus took a long walk on Sabbath.

"Why aren't You reading the teachings of the Rabbis?" Jude may have asked when Jesus sat memorizing the Old Testament. "You would impress the rabbi if You could argue

from the scholars. And impressing the rabbi is a must if You want to get accepted at the Temple." But Jesus knew that the words of life were not in Jewish tradition, but in the Bible. His brothers meant well, but they brought no comfort to a young boy on a special mission for God.

Satan, too, continually troubled Jesus with doubts about Himself and His origins in the family. His mother was probably not married until she was noticeably pregnant. So some people, letting their imaginations run away with them, called Him names. "We don't know where You came from," they accused.

Under continual stress, any child would have longed for a hug and reassurance that He was doing a good job. But instead of comfort, Jesus' brothers caused Him additional grief with their steady criticism.

Wednesday

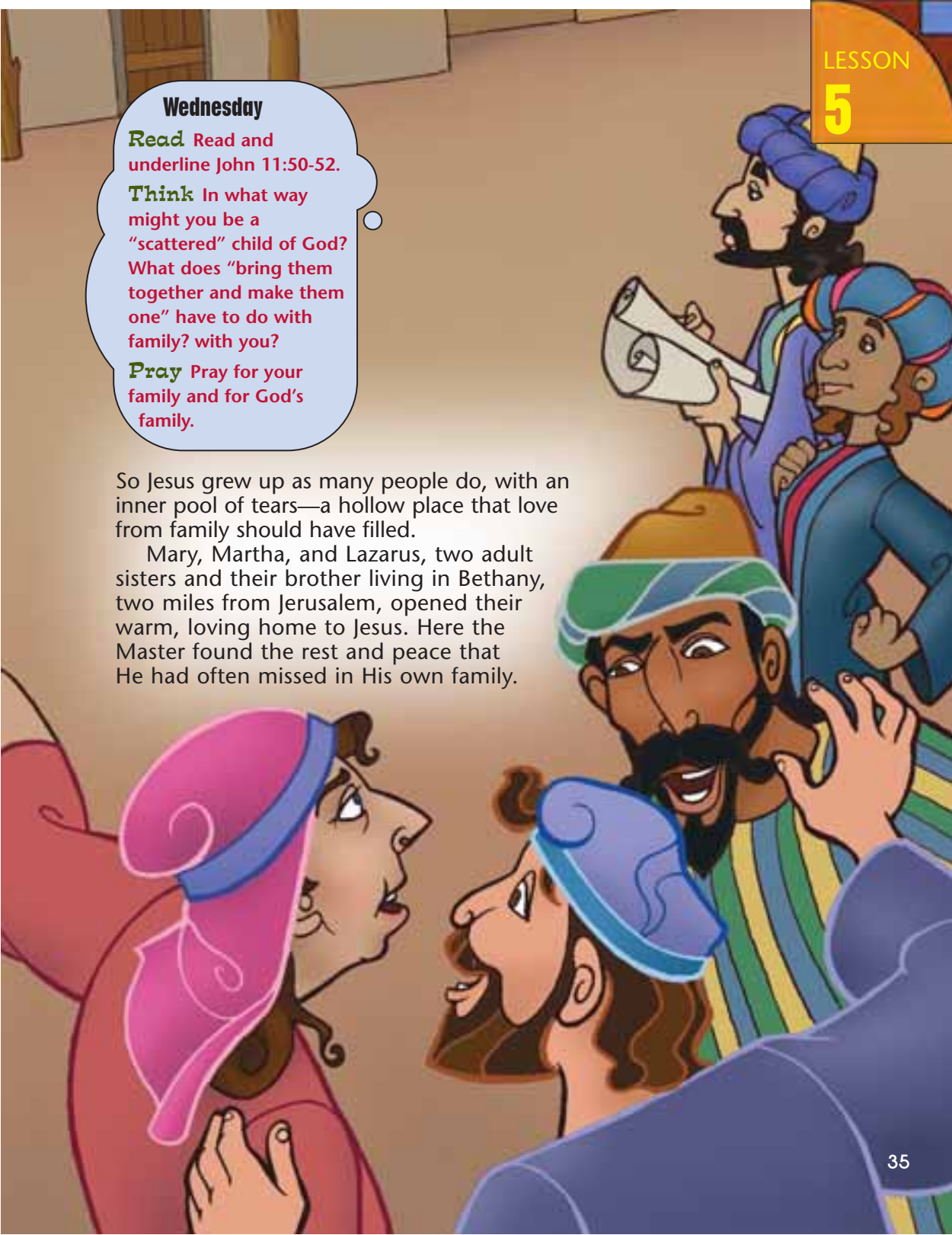
Read Read and underline John 11:50-52.

Think In what way might you be a “scattered” child of God? What does “bring them together and make them one” have to do with family? with you?

Pray Pray for your family and for God’s family.

So Jesus grew up as many people do, with an inner pool of tears—a hollow place that love from family should have filled.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, two adult sisters and their brother living in Bethany, two miles from Jerusalem, opened their warm, loving home to Jesus. Here the Master found the rest and peace that He had often missed in His own family.



Maybe in Lazarus, Jesus found an understanding, older brother. When Jesus was traveling to or from Jerusalem, He stayed with these friends.

Near the end of His ministry, while on the other side of the Jordan River, Jesus one day received a brief message: "Lord, the one you love is sick" (John 11:3, NIV). The disciples, watching anxiously for Jesus'

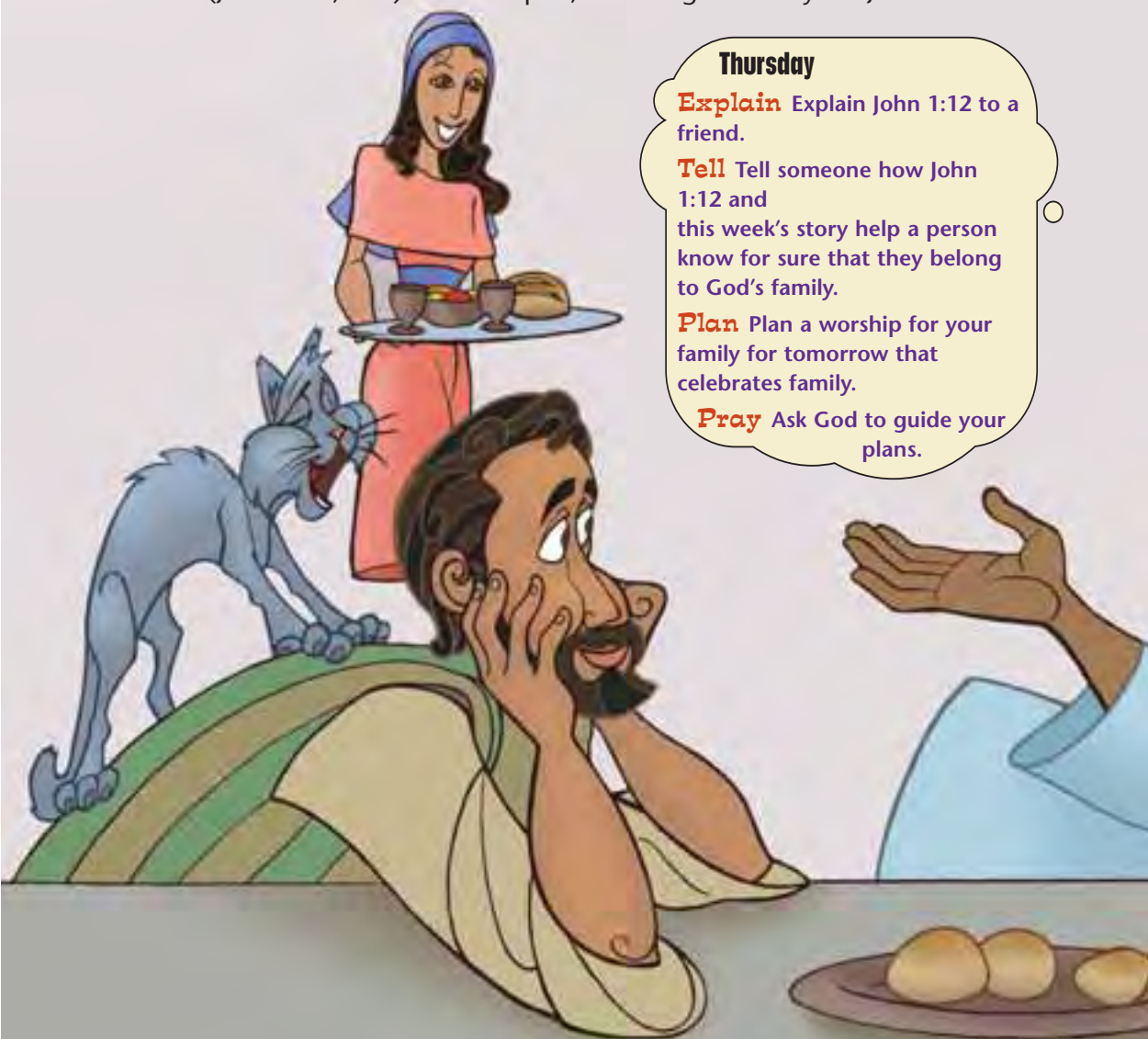
Thursday

Explain Explain John 1:12 to a friend.

Tell Tell someone how John 1:12 and this week's story help a person know for sure that they belong to God's family.

Plan Plan a worship for your family for tomorrow that celebrates family.

Pray Ask God to guide your plans.



reaction, immediately knew the message referred to Lazarus. Who else was Jesus so close to?

Later when Jesus wept with Mary at Lazarus' tomb, the staring onlookers whispered, "See how he loved him" (verse 36, NIV). But Jesus loved the whisperers just as much as He loved Lazarus. The difference with Lazarus was that he received Jesus' love. And that simple act made him family. To all who receive Jesus, God gives the right to become children of God. Their place in His family is sure.

Friday

Do Do your special family worship with the help of your family.

Ask Ask an adult to tell you how they feel about God's family.

Say Say the power text together.

Pray During your prayer time, ask each family member present to pray for the person on their right. Also, remember family members who are not with you. Close by thanking God for the ability to be a part of His family.



The Family of God

Instructions: Can you decipher the Bible verse below to see how we fit into God's plans? Start with the first letter and read every other letter to the end; then start with the second letter and read the remaining letters.

WS EHA ERE EPHOIF, SHP
IESOP PA LSE TTUHREE.



Who Has Defeated Death?

Instructions: Use this phone pad diagram as the key to unlocking this Bible verse. For example, 4 is either "G," "H," or "I."

"53787 7243 86 437, '4 26 843 737877328466 263 843 5433.'"

1W

ABC 2W

DEF 3W

GHI 4W

JKL 5W

MNO 6W

PRS 7W

TUV 8W

XYZ 9W

*W

OPER 0W

#W